HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

TUESDAY : : : : SEPTEMBER 2

PEACE, IF SUCH BE HONORABLE.

When Senator Bacon, chairman of the foreign relations committee, called upon the senate to support the President in his Mexican policy, irrespective of politics, he voiced the opinions of the vast majority of Americans. While the situation in the Mexican Republic is intensely exasperating, while it is true that there are offenses against foreigners, including Americans, occurring in Mexico, and while it is true that money by millions represented in American investments is being endangered, yet the average American does not want to plunge his country into a war with Mexico. It is not through any fear of the outcome of such a war that impels the average American to hold up his hand for peace, if peace can be preserved with honor, but the horror of appealing to the sword if the same or better better results can be otherwise obtained. It may be that an American army will have to invade Mexico; the authorities are preparing for the eventuality, and if the day of invasion comes the Mexican and the rest of the world will realize that it was not from any lack of courage that the American hand has been stayed for so long.

This was the knowledge back of the words uttered by Senator Bacon a few days ago, when he addressed the senate and urged action in support of the Executive.

"There are some divergencies of opinion in the committee," said the Georgian. "It could not be otherwise. Some few favor more drastic measures than others. The committee, generally, sympathizes with the President's desire to avoid intervention or anything that will produce war. Even those, however, who favor drastic measures have confidence in the President and are supporting him in his present efforts. I think, with a few exceptions, there is no disposition to draw party lines. I think that is true of both Republicans and Democrats in the committee and in the senate generally.

"While there is a small element in this country that would like to see war, the large majority of the people deprecate it most earnestly and thoroughly sympathize with the desire of the President to avoid it.

"There never was a greater responsibility on a man than now rests on the President of the United States to guard this country against being involved in war on account of Mexico, and I believe that it is the duty of every man, inside and out of congress, who has confidence in the integrity and capacity of the President, to hold up his hands in the effort he is making, and to do as little as possible to embarrass him in working out successfully the difficult undertaking."

MORALISTS IN WILD DISAGREEMENT.

A boy for convenience called Bad, tells another, for the same reason designated as Good, that he is about to throw a stone through the schoolhouse window. Good says nothing, and Bad carried out his purpose, with the resulting crash so delightful to boyish ears. Later the teacher asks Good if he knows who broke the window. Should Good tell her, and what should he say if she asks him who did it.

These questions, with related inquiries as to whether or not the teacher was justified, as a court would be, in expecting such information from such a source, and whether children should be taught to tell the truth about the wrongdoing of others when questioned by competent authority, were formulated by a high school principal out in Ohio and he has submitted them to a large number of people more or less eminent as writers and educators. The Outlook prints their answers to the extent of several pages, and they make truly interesting reading.

The first peculiarity noticeable in this novel "symposium" is the wide divergence of the opinions expressed on a seemingly simple problem in common morality by men whose conceptions of right and wrong are presumably much the same. The opinions range from plain, unqualified statements that the questions were proper, and that Good should have answered truthfully, to others as definite that the inquiries were unjustifiable and that Good's duty was to refuse an answer. Between these two extremes appear various modifications and compromises, with equally varied explanations of each.

Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, explorer and author, one finds with some surprise among those who unhesitatingly pronounce for revelation. President Hadley of Yale, on the contrary, roundly declares that the schoolboy code of honor as to tale-bearing is sound ethics, and that the teacher who incites its breaking gravely errs in virtue and judgment. As to the questioning Daniel Carter Beard, a father of the Boy Scout movement, says, "Yes, if she wants to," and adds, "If the boy is a sissy sort of a chap he may tell," which sufficiently shows his view of both points. Jacob A. Riis, the Colonel's "best citizen," is one of the very few answerers who see a significant and important circumstance in the fact that Good made no effort to dissuade Bad from the commission of the crime. Not one of them notices or resents the prejudgment that lies in the names applied to the heroes of the episode. That, to our mind, slyly begs the real question and is highly unfair.

TAXING EDUCATION.

In addition to the absurd tax which the Democrats in caucus decided to levy on imported works of art less than fifty years old, they have fixed the duty on books in foreign languages at fifteen per cent ad valorem. They exempt textbooks for use in schools and books for public libraries. But why in the name of common sense tax such books at all, says the New York Times.

The revenue obtained would be about the cost of a courthouse for a crossroads town, probably not over $150,000. The average number of books imported is not far from 1,000,000. A considerable portion of these are works of special value on art, on science, and technical; a larger part are fairly described as literature, and, though some of them are poor stuff, the worst generally get translated, so that morality is not promoted by the tax. Those which are good, and they are many, are, of course, unique and cannot be replaced, even by translations. Why should the people of the United States be hindered from getting books of this sort as cheaply as possible? Do the senators imagine that they are bought chiefly by rich persons? That is a radical error. They are bought very largely by teachers and by men and women with a taste for study and with precious little money for indulging in that taste. These teachers and students form a pretty valuable class in the population and they ought not to be hetcheled by the harrow of legislative ignorance and meddlesomeness.

Probably the tax on books in foreign languages is another of the offspring of the queer notion that American publishers, and especially American printers, binders, &c., are helped by checking importations. The contrary is the fact. The liking for reading foreign books necessarily stimulates the liking for reading all books worth reading. You cannot restrain the former without checking the latter. Even the protectionists saw this and the Payne-Aldrich Act and the Dingley Act put books in a foreign language on the free list.

OUR BOYS' OPPORTUNITY.

Luther Burbank, by experience and accomplishment doubtless the best qualified man in the world today to make such a statement, says the great opportunity for our boys and young men is in agriculture. He points out that after the young man has spent eight years at hard study of medicine, the law or engineering, he has not made a success; he is only prepared to commence the battle for it. Whereas, to add but one kernel of corn to each ear grown in this country in a single year would increase the supply five million bushels. One improvement in the potato is already paying back $17,000,000 a year. Everything we eat and wear comes out of the ground. With less than half our population raising things, should there be any wonder that the cost of living has increased fifty-eight per cent in fifteen years? Mr. Burbank is quoted by Popular Mechanics, in its September issue, as saying:

"What the world needs, urgently and now, is men who can increase the forage from out present acreage so that sixteen cents will buy a pound of the choicest sirloin, as of old, instead of a pound of rump, as now.

"What the world needs is not theory, or agitation, or college lore; there are plenty of these, and at a cost of one hundred and eighty million dollars per annum in money and who knows how much time, they have succeeded in increasing our crop yield only a bare three per cent.

"What the world needs is men who can do to agriculture and to horticulture what Edison did to electricity, Carnegie to steel, and the Vanderbilts, Hills and Harrimans to transportation—develop their efficiency."

AMERICAN NEGLECT OF SPANISH.

The need of a change of attitude in the United States toward the Spanish language is again accentuated in official quarters. Much has been said recently by public men and by the press with reference to the desirability of having Spanish more generally taught in schools and colleges, but it would seem that so far little real progress has been made in the opinion of the Christian Science Monitor. This is evident in the fact that there is a large unsupplied demand in Latin-America for American teachers capable of imparting instruction in the Spanish tongue. American teachers otherwise qualified are available—teachers of the stamp needed in the southern republics—but, because of their inability to use the language of the countries applying for them the positions are filled by Europeans. L. A. Kalbach, chief clerk of the bureau of education in Washington, reports that at the request of the state department the United States has been secured in search of educators for responsible positions in Latin-American countries, only to find generally that those who might qualify in other particulars cannot speak the Spanish language.

In reply to a recent inquiry, an officer of one of the best-known teaching-training institutions of the United States informed the bureau that "none of our industrial arts experts speak Spanish." Through investigation it has been revealed that although Spanish is taught in many American institutions of learning, comparatively few students avail themselves of the opportunity to learn it. Here we have another phase of what may be termed a widespread and unfortunate neglect of educational opportunity. But it is more than this, or, at least indifference to the Spanish language reaches farther than this. It means the neglect also of industrial opportunities, and, worse still, the indefinite postponement of an entente between the peoples of the north and south which could only result in good to all. There would be far less difficulty in clearing up misunderstandings between this republic and its Latin neighbors if the relationship between the peoples were more intimate. This relationship cannot grow closer so long as Americans are, as a rule, unable to converse in the language of those whose friendship they would like to cultivate.

Consideration of the equally important fact that the United States has a large Spanish-speaking population of its own to deal with, and to deal with intelligently and agreeably, is left out of the account here, because even if there were no Arizona and New Mexico, no Philippines and no Porto Rico, it would still be incumbent upon the people of the United States, both as regards neighborliness and business, to learn something of a language that is spoken throughout a vast area of the three Americas.

FRANKNESS TO BE COMMENDED.

A patriotic American who, under the guidance of an all-knowing railroad man, also American, has just seen in two weeks "everything in Europe worth seeing," has returned, confessedly a little out of breath, but with opinions and convictions as to the regions thus studied which are not on that account the less confident.

Oh, yes, and incidentally, while abroad, he represented Oregon at an International Road Congress, and made a deep-comparative study of highway surfaces under the stresses of modern traffic.

His well-deduced conclusion is that Europe isn't so much—that the Europeans know no more about roads than we do, if as much; that their habit of speaking other languages than English is a silly and annoying fad, and that, now the automobiling in this country is pretty good, "Americans are getting away from a desire to go to Europe just to see a lot of ruins."

The sailing lists hardly bear out the verdict of this interesting visitor to the cities of many men and learner of their minds. Either the taste for ruins lingers abundantly here or else rather numerous Americans, unlike this one, find other things in Europe than architectural wreckage from adown the centuries.

Far, far, be it from us to criticise Mr. Chamberlain—Mr. C. P. Chamberlain of Portland, Oregon, to give him in full his fully deserved identification. Both his courage and his humor are admirable, and it is to be more than suspected that many another American, after a vertiginous flight through the Continent, if as frank as he, would make a similar report of his impressions.

And Mr. Chamberlain may not be quite as much of a Philistine as he pretends. In the course of his narrative he casually revealed the acquisition of a lot of instructive books on Europe and the intention to read them when he gets time. Through that confession darkly glimmers appreciation of large facts—possibly of a yearning to visit Europe again, after the instructive books have been read, and to traverse it less rapidly than when he "got five hours' sleep a night and ate out of a nose-bag."

There really is good ground for the belief that in Europe there is more to be seen than ruins and "the place where somebody was beheaded."

BARTERING PRICELESS TREASURES.

In discussing a report that sundry manuscripts of Robert Burns had been sold by the Liverpool Atheneum to an American millionaire, the Rev. J. G. Hamilton, of that city, denounces the reported sale and asks indignantly:

"What interest can an American millionaire, of all people in the world, have in Robert Burns?" and adds, "probably he cannot even understand his writings." Evidently, Rev. Mr. Hamilton does not understand American millionaires, especially the sort that buys curios. Since J. Pierpont Morgan began the fashion of buying rare things and objects of art and otherwise, certain rich men of our country who spend a good time abroad have taken up the habit too. The purchaser of the Burns' manuscripts may be one of this sort. It is not likely that he could understand Burns. Nor it is likely that he will try to do so. If he could reach that dazzling height of intellectual attainment he would likely as not call Bobbie Burns an anarchist and disturber of business.

It is questionable if the Liverpool antheneum, which did have a considerable reputation either understands Burns. If it did it would not have sold his priceless manuscript to an "American millionaire" for $25,000.

"NOBLE BAND OF FATHEADS."

When, asks the Hilo Tribune, will we see the last of the phenomenon presented by the man who signs a document and the next minute makes an affidavit to the effect that he did not know what he was signing in the first place? We presume that it would be quite possible in most cases to go one step farther and to secure from such men another affidavit to the effect that they did not understand what they signed when they made their first affidavit, and so ad infinitum.

Instances of this kind appear to be particularly numerous in Hawaii. There has hardly ever been any liquor license contest or similar matter where the signatures of residents are essential, where we have not seen members of the noble band of fatheads, who unblushingly admit that they did not know the contents of the documents to which they affixed their names. Some even go so far as to sign two conflicting petitions.

Thus we need not be surprised to encounter a noble half-dozen or so of affidavit-makers in the Kealoha matter. They say that they did not understand what they were signing when they signed the Kealoha charges. Kealoha will, through his counsel, contend that such signatures should not be counted. We thoroughly agree with him. The name of a man of that caliber is not worth having on any public record of any kind.

SACCHARIN.

In vain the manufacturers of saccharin protest against the ruling of the pure food authorities at Washington prohibiting the use of their product in interstate trade as a substitute for sugar. We have received from one of the manufacturers of this drug a letter pleading in this wise:

"The saccharin manufacturers, having an unbounded faith in the legitimacy of the product, have been advocating that where saccharin is used to sweeten a food product, the fact be so stated on the label. We have gone even further than that, by suggesting that the label read 'Guaranteed to be sweetened with saccharin.'"

Wholesalers would use such a label; retail bakers, provisioners, and restaurant keepers would see it, but would the individual consumer? In most cases probably not. But the argument is refined:

"In buying a sweetened food product, the buyer does not buy it for the sugar that it contains, nor for the food value of the sugar in the product."

Not consciously, perhaps. But sugar is one of the most concentrated forms of nutriment. Saccharin, which is five hundred times sweeter than sugar, is not nutritious at all, and the substitution of the saccharin for an important food element, the board of consulting scientific experts to the department of agriculture says, constitutes an adulteration under the food and drugs act of 1906. Probably most people would eat a substantial article of food not because of its nutriment value, but because it tasted well. Deprive it of its nutriment and they are, assuredly, cheated.

CONTINUED GROWTH IN EXPORT TRADE.

July exports of breadstuffs, meats, cotton, and mineral oils show a large increase over those of the corresponding month of last year. The monthly bulletin of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce, showing exports from the principal customs districts of breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oils, shows a total of forty-seven and three-quarter million dollars for July, 1913, against thirty-three million in July, 1912. The chief increase occurs in wheat, of which the exports from the principal customs districts during July, 1913, were 9,397,745 bushels against 523,385 bushels in July of last year, the value being $9,093,182 against $537,928 in July of last year. These exports of wheat in July were larger than in July of any earlier year since 1901. Flour, also, shows a considerable increase, being $3,611,986 for July, 1913, against $2,616,022 for July, 1912. Meat and dairy products show an increase of about two and one-half million dollars over July of last year; cotton, an increase of one and one-third million dollars; mineral oils, an increase of nearly one million; while cottonseed oil and cattle and food animals show a slight decline. The total of the six groups of articles named—breadstuffs, cottonseed oil, food animals, meat and dairy products, cotton, and mineral oil—for July, 1913, is $47,739,815 against $32,992,614 in July of last year, and for the seven months ending with July, $486,691,678 against $486,978,217 in the corresponding months of last year.

HAWAII'S PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE.

In an article on "The Agricultural Revolution" published in Collier's Weekly on July 26, the authors assert that Hawaii leads all the rest of the United States in agricultural progress and in the efficiency with which lands are tilled and improved. They point out that an average of $20 an acre is expended annually for fertilizers. Referring to the Hawaiian sugar industry the article says:

"The Sugar Planters' Association maintains an experiment station of its own at a cost of $75,000 a year. The Territory has a commissioner of agriculture and forestry with a staff of fifteen, and spends approximately $50,000 a year. And the bureau of plant industry has a large experiment station at Honolulu under the management of E. V. Wilcox, one of the most competent men connected with the department of agriculture.

"For the present time at least Hawaii is the last word in modern agriculture, and what Hawaii is doing now will be done in nearly all, if not all, the States in a comparatively short time."

THE PASSING HOUR.

A lobby that could influence the weather bureau to a reliable line of favorable predictions might be appreciated.

It is not what the public utilities commission has done that should worry any corporation, but what it has been getting ready to do.

If the worst comes to the worst in Mexico we will send our entire national guard, eighty-one strong, down there and teach 'em a lesson.

"Huerta insists on being a candidate," says the latest from Mexico. Someone ought to take him gently to one side and hand him a copy of the political history of Link McCandless, who also insisted.

The next time Sheriff Henry lays hands on Chung Duck Soon it is to be hoped the high sheriff will be careful in the kind of shackles he places on this slippery convict. The Territory in time might become tired of the expense incurred in the wilful destruction of good steel handcuffs.

Secretary of State Bryan is reported as being busily engaged in computing the sum which Mexico will be required to pay Americans for damage to property. Inasmuch as the administration is opposed to the use of force in putting an end to the murder of Americans in Mexico, it may not be out of place to inquire the nature of the plans of the Secretary of Peace for collecting the half a million dollars for damage to property in our neighboring Republic.

Automobile No. 1332 was officially registered yesterday. There will soon be enough machines in town to make the proposed association of automobile drivers, to help the police enforce the law, not only possible but useful. Of the thirteen hundred odd drivers in the city, some fifty need looking after, in the interests of chauffeurs in particular and the public in general. With the other twelve hundred and fifty looking out for violations of the speed and traffic ordinances the fifty should be held pretty well in line.

The federal forest service has decided to send out a band of sheep as bait for spotted fever ticks in the Bitterroot national forest, Montana, the idea being that the ticks will gather on the sheep and then the sheep will be dipped and the ticks end their fever carrying career. This offers a good suggestion for the Honolulu supervisors in their "swat the fly" campaign. Why not hang a sheet of sticky flypaper on the back of each road worker, thus combining the business of fly-catching with the pleasure of being on the city payrolls? Mayor Fern also might carry paper fore and aft and become really useful to those who buy his gasoline.

BUSINESS CARDS.

HONOLULU IRON WORKS CO.—Machinery of every description made to order. Advt.

MARRIED.

CULLEN-M'KEAGUE—In Honolulu, August 30, 1913, Ida McKeague to Thomas Cullen, both of Aiea, Oahu.

MILLS-OFF—In Honolulu, August 30, by the Rev. J. W. Wadman, George K. Mills and Miss Elsie Justin Off.

BORN.

MELANTHY—At Kaimuki, Honolulu, September 1, 1913, to Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Melanthy, a daughter.

DIED.

MOSSMAN—In Honolulu, September 1, Mrs. Sarah Boyd Mossman, widow of Richard N. Mossman, a native of Honolulu, aged forty-nine years. Interment private.